

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01

ACDA-19 NIC-01 EB-11 RSR-01 CU-04 SIL-01 LAB-06 /151 W
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P R 1416535 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1811

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL; VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO GDR

REF: BERLIN 824

1. SUMMARY. IN RECEIVING BREZHNEV MAY 12 AND 13, GDR

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MADE ALL- OUT EFFORT TO TURN EVENT INTO A SPECTACULAR
OF " ETERNAL" GDR" SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE.

BREZHNEV WAS GIVEN IMPRESSIVE, ALBEIT LARGELY ORGANIZED,
WELCOME BY CROWDS ALONG ARRIVAL ROUTE, AND MEDIA

CARRIED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY REPORTS ON VISIT OR PROGRAMS DEVOTED TO SOVIET UNION. JUDGING BY COMMUNIQUE, WHICH MAKES CLEAR THAT STATUS OF GDR AS INTEGRAL PART OF SOCIALIST CAMP IS IRREVERSIBLE, ASSIGNS FIRST FOREIGN- POLICY PRIORITY TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF WARSAW PACT UNITY, AND ASSERTS COMPLETE IDENTITY OF GDR- SOVIET VIEWS, GDR SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REASSURED THAT MOSCOW' S WESTPOLITIK, IN PARTICULAR TOWARDS FRG, WILL NOT AFFECT GDR- SOVIET SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. HONECKER SHOULD ALSO BE PLEASED PERSONALLY, HAVING RECEIVED ORDER OF LENIN, BREZHNEV' S HIGH PRAISE OF HIS PERFORMANCE, AND CONSEQUENT SOVIET ENDORSEMENT OF HIS PRIMACY. ULBRICHT WAS PRESENT AT INDOOR ACTIVITIES, AND WAS FAVORABLY MENTIONED BY BREZHNEV AND HONECKER. IN BEING LUMPED WITH PIECK AND BROTEWOHL, HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO BE RELEGATED TO HISTORY AND MAY HAVE THUS RECEIVED LAST RITES BEFORE HIS FINAL DEMISE. OTHER OCTOGENARIAN IN GDR LEADERSHIP, EBERT, WAS THE ONLY POLITBURO MEMBER NOT PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITIES, WHICH RAISES POSSIBILITY OF HIS BEING ON WAY OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. BREZHNEV ARRIVED EAST BERLIN AROUND NOON MAY 12 AND DEPARTED EARLY P. M. MAY 13. ALTHOUGH HE CAME ONLY FOR A " FRIENDSHIP" VISIT, HE RECEIVED AT AIRPORT FULL CEREMONIAL DUE TO CHIEF OF STATE, INCLUDING MILITARY HONORS AND LINE- UP OF DIPLOMATIC COPRS. DURING RIDE INTO CITY, HE WAS GREETED, ACCORDING TO ESTIMATE BY SOME WESTERN OBSERVERS, BY 500,000 PEOPLE, MOSTLY YOUTHS AND WORKERS IN ORGANIZED FORMATIONS, INCLUDING MANY BROUGHT FROM GDR PROVINCES. ALONG ROUTE BREZHNEV STOPPED SEVERAL TIMES TO SHAKE HANDS WITH CROWDS, RECEIVE WELCOMING GIFTS, AND KISS CHILDREN. AS A RESULT, RIDE TOOK TWO HOURS, TWICE THE TIME ENVISAGED IN PUBLISHED SCHEDULE. WHILE GENUINENESS OF POPULATION' S ENTHUSIASM OPEN TO QUESTION, MANY YOUTHS SEEMED TO ENJOY SINGING AND CHANTING IN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE BALMY AND GENERALLY SUNNY WEATHER. MASS MEDIA CONTRIBUTED TO SPECTACLE WITH LIVE COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV' S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, AS WELL AS AWARDING OF LENIN ORDER TO HONECKER, AND WITH SHOWS BY SOVIET PERFORMERS.

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3. COMMUNIQUE AND BREZHNEV- HONECKER EXCHANGE AT AWARD CEREMONY, TEXTS OF WHICH WE ASSUME AVAILABLE TO ADDRESSEES, PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY FOR THEIR STRESS ON IRREVERSIBLE CHARACTER OF PRESENT SOCIO- POLITICAL STRUCTURE IN EUROPE (READ GDR AND EE) AND ON SOVIET- GDR DETERMINATION FURTHER TO PURSUE COMPREHENSIVE MUTUAL INTEGRATION. EVIDENTLY TO REASSURE GDR THAT ITS INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY SOVIET DEALINGS WITH FRG, COMMUNIQUE ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST ALLIANCE AND UNITY REMAINS FIRST FOREIGN- POLICY PRIORITY. IN GENERAL, ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING VISIT, AS WELL AS TONE AND CONTENT OF COMMUNIQUE AND HONECKER- BREZHNEV REMARKS, SEEMED BE DESIGNED TO SUB-

STANTIATE STATEMENT IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FRONT- PAGE
ARTICLE MAY 12 TO EFFECT THAT " IF GDR CAN DESCRIBE ITS
RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER STATE AS SPECIAL, IT IS
RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION"-- A MESSAGE PRIMARILY AIMED
AT FRG AND THOSE ELEMENTS IN GDR THAT STILL MAY HAVE
ILLUSIONS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF GENUINE GDR/ FRG RAPPROCHEMENT.

4. WHILE BREZHNEV IN HIS AWARD CEREMONY REMARKS PROFESSED
DETERMINATION TO ABIDE BY LETTER AND SPIRIT OF EAST- WEST
AGREEMENTS AND INSISTED OTHER PARTIES DO THE SAME, HE GAVE
NO INDICATION THAT SOVIETS ABANDONING THEIR INTERPRETATION
OF THOSE AGREEMENTS. CONCERNING BERLIN, COMMUNIQUE ASSERTS
THAT ACCORDING TO QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT " WESTBERLIN DOES
NOT BELONG TO FRG AND CONTINUES NOT BE BE GOVERNED BY IT,"
AND WARNS THAT STRICT OBSERVANCE OF QA AND RELATED GDR/ FRG
AND FRG- SENAT ARRANGEMENTS IS PREREQUISITE FOR HARMONY
AMONG ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. THIS WAS PERHAPS NECESSARY
TO COUNTERBALANCE ACTIONS BREZHNEV EXPECTED TO TAKE LATER
THIS WEEK IN BONN WHEN HE SIGNS VARIETY OF AGREEMENTS WITH
FRG CONTAINING THE DISPUTED BERLIN CLAUSES.

5. AS REGARDS OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, COMMUNIQUE STRIKES
US AS ROUTINE, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF PARAGRAPH RE MBFR,
WHICH IN CALLING FOR THOROUGH PREPARATIONS OF NEGOTIATIONS
MAY SUGGEST INTENTION DRAG OUT CURRENT VIENNA TALKS.

6. BREZHNEV VISIT ALSO SIGNIFICANT TRIUMPH FOR HONECKER
PERSONALLY. IT REEMPHASIZED HONECKER' S PRIMACY AND FULL
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SOVIET SUPPORT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP, WITH BREZHNEV DESCRIBING
HIM AS OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY OF SOCIALIST COMMUNITY AND
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. AT SAME TIME, BOTH
BREZHNEV AND HONECKER SOUGHT TO GIVE IMPRESSION
OF CONTINUITY GDR LEADERSHIP BY REFERRING TO PIECK,
GROTWEHOL AND ULBRICHT AS FOUNDERS AND DEVELOPERS OF GDR-
SOVIET FRIENDSHIP. ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV MADE SPECIAL BOW
TO ULBRICHT BY NOTING THAT HE HIGHLY ESTEEMED BY EVERYONE,
IMPLICATION WAS THAT ULBRICHT NOW BELONGED TO HISTORY AND
MIGHT NOT BE AROUND MUCH LONGER. FACT THAT ENTIRE
SED POLITBURO, WITH EXCEPTION OF EBERT, PARTICIPATED IN
TALKS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SEEMS TO INDICATE DESIRE
DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY OF GDR LEADERSHIP AND THEIR
SUPPORT FOR HONECKER. IN THIS CONTEXT, CONSPICUOUS
ABSENCE OF EBERT RAISES POSSIBILITY THAT HE EITHER SEVERELY
ILL OR MAY BE FALLING BY WAYSIDE.

7. RECEPTION AND TREATMENT ACCORDED TO BREZHNEV, WHO
CAME AT INVITATION OF SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE, STATE COUNCIL
AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PROJECTED IMAGE OF AN ALL- AUTHORITATIVE
BREZHNEV. HONECKER' S STATEMENT AND MEDIA WERE REplete WITH

SYCOPHANTIC REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS. FOR
HIS PART, HONECKER EMERGED FROM VISIT SEEMINGLY MORE FIRMLY IN
SADDLE THAN EVER BEFORE. KLEIN

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